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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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08/988,181 12/10/97 OSHIMA

S 048708

EXAMINER
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QM32/0716

SUGHRUE MION ZINN MACPEAK & SEAS  
2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE N W  
WASHINGTON DC 20037

GORDON, E	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

3711  
DATE MAILED:

07/16/01

16

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

**Office Action Summary**Application No.  
**08/988,181**Applicant(s)  
**Oshima**Examiner  
**Raeann Gorden**Art Unit  
**3711****– The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address –****Period for Reply**A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Apr 27, 20012a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.**Disposition of Claims**4) ☒ Claim(s) 12-43 is/are pending in the applica

4a) Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from considera

5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.6) ☒ Claim(s) 12-43 is/are rejected.7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.8) ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirem**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).**Attachment(s)**

- 15) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other:

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## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 12-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Connell in view of Taylor. Connell discloses a box with pictures and written descriptions of the contents of the box. Although Connell discloses cigar information on the box a difference in what is attributed to printed matter does not provide a basis on which patentability may be predicted. Ex parte Breslow, 192 USPQ 431, U.S. Industries, Inc et al v. Ladd, 141 USPQ 376. Golf balls with different playing characteristics, as disclosed by Taylor, are usually sold in boxes having a cover. It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to label a box with pictorial illustrations and descriptive text of each ball since such is a conventional technique for informing the golfer of the different golf balls.

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***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments filed 4-24-01 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues the Connell reference does not suggest providing a box with various performance characteristics of a golf ball. Connell does not provide information regarding golf balls but does disclose a box with characteristics of pipes. As previously stated, printed matter does not provide a basis for patentability. Both the present invention and the prior art provide boxes with indicia on the cover describing the contents. Applicant further argues that Connell merely provides general information concerning different types of pipes and the shapes. The Examiner disagrees. Connell clearly states the labels reveal the characteristics of a particular style of pipe or pipes contained in any given box or carton (lines 15-17). In regards to the Taylor reference, golf balls with different playing characteristics, as disclosed by Taylor, are usually sold in boxes having a cover. It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to label a box with pictorial illustrations and descriptive text, as disclosed by Connell, of each ball or any other packaged item since such is a conventional technique for informing the consumer of the contents.

***Conclusion***

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO**

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MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

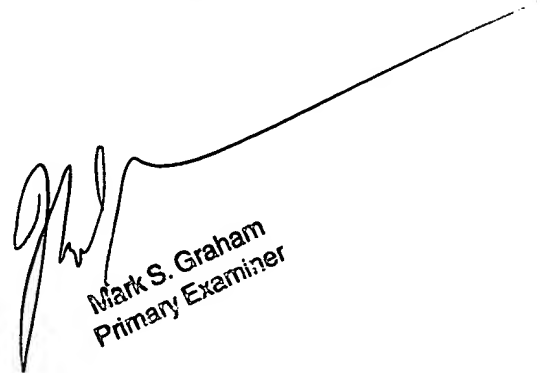
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Raeann Gorden whose telephone number is (703) 308-8354. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Thursday and alternating Fridays from 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeanette Chapman, can be reached on 703-308-1310. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-308-7768.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1148.

rg

July 10, 2001



Mark S. Graham  
Primary Examiner